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Diane Dunn McKay

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of
Austin, R. et al.

Serial No. 09/707,892

Filed: November 6, 2000

For: ELECTRODE-LESS
DIELECTROPHORIS FOR
POLARIZABLE PARTICLES

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Group Art Unit: 1634
Examiner: Sisson, Bradley L.

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In a March 26, 2002 Office Action, the Examiner required restriction to one of the following groups:

I. Claims 1-23, drawn to microfluidic device, classified in class 435, subclass 287.2.

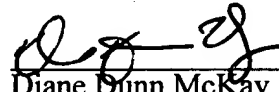
II. Claims 24-27, drawn to a method of concentrating a polarizable particle or molecule, classified in class 436, subclass 2; claim 28, drawn to a method of concentrating particle or molecule on a silicon or glass chip, classified in class 436, subclass 501; and claim 31, drawn to a method of fractionating particles or molecules, classified in class 436, subclass 501.

III. Claim 29, drawn to a method of improving the hybridization rate of polynucleotide molecules, classified in class 435, subclass 6; and claim 30, drawn to a method of improving the rate of polymerase chain reaction, classified in class 435, subclass 91.2.

Applicants hereby elect with traverse Group I, claims 1-23 for prosecution in this application. Applicants submit that a search of the microfluidic device would uncover the methods of Groups II and III. Applicants respectfully request the right to file a divisional application directed to the unelected claims.

A prompt action on the merits is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned should he believe this would expedite prosecution of this application. It is believed no fee is required. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2165.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attorney for Applicant(s)

DATE: April 26, 2002

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